

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01

ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-05

OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /130 R

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APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BF

SUBJECT: SPINY LOBSTER PRESS Q AND A

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS ON SPINY LOBSTER
ASKED AT THE PRESS NEWS BRIEFING TODAY:

Q WHAT DOES QUOTE JAWS UNQUOTE MEAN? IS IT AN ACRONYM FOR
AN ORGANIZATION IN RELATION TO THE BLOWING UP OF THE
BAHAMIAN SHIP?

A WELL, I HAVE SEEN SOME PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTING AN
ORGANIZATION WITH SUCH AN ACRONYM AS CLAIMING CREDIT,
BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE INITIALS STAND FOR.

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Q HAVE YOU GOT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ACRONYM?

A NO, I DO NOT. I KNOW IT IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES IN THE MIAMI AREA, BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION.

Q THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER INCIDENTS OR ANY INCIDENTS ASSOCIATED SINCE THE BAN?

A NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF. WE DO NOT KNOW, YOU KNOW, POSITIVELY, THAT THIS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q WHAT KIND OF COMMUNICATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OR DAMAGE TO THIS VESSEL?

A I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CONTACTS, IF ANY. IT HAS BEEN PRIMARILY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COAST GUARD AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE IN MIAMI.

Q IN YOUR MESSAGE YESTERDAY -- ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY -- THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ATTRIBUTING TO ITSELF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALM TO PREVENT VIOLENCE, ET CETERA, WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN, IF ANY, TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO VIOLENCE? FOR EXAMPLE, WILL THE COAST GUARD BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL ORDERS? HAVE THEY BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL ORDERS TO TAKE OVER?

A I DO NOT THINK THEY REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL ORDERS. WE INDICATED YESTERDAY, AND CONFIRMED TODAY, THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WILL ENFORCE U.S. LAWS -- IN WHICH THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STATUTES, ON BACKGROUND -- I AM GOING ON BACKGROUND BECAUSE I AM NOT SURE OF THE ACTUAL TEXTS -- THAT PROHIBIT CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ACTS OF VIOLENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, OR FOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE TO BE COMMITTED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS OR AMERICAN FLAGSHIPS ON THE HIGH SEAS OR MAKING PREPARATIONS TO COMMIT VIOLENCE. END BACKGROUND.

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Q DO WE HAVE ANY U.S. NAVAL OR COAST GUARD VESSELS EN ROUTE TO, OR IN, THE WATERS IN QUESTION TO OBSERVE, TO WATCH, TO LOOK OUT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE OR NON-VIOLENCE IN THAT REGION?

A I AM SURE THAT THE COAST GUARD WILL DO WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO, BUT AS FOR SPECIFIC OPERATIONS YOU REALLY HAVE TO ASK THE COAST GUARD IN MIAMI.

Q YOU DON'T KNOW OF ANY?

A NOT SPECIFIC, NO.

Q ON THAT SAME SUBJECT, HAS THERE BEEN ANY RESPONSE FROM THE BAHAMAS ON THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT?

A NO.

Q AND, ALSO, WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO DO THIS BY THE UNITED STATES -- ANY?

A I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY RESPONSE FROM THE BAHAMIANS. OBVIOUSLY, IT WOULD TAKE BOTH PARTIES TO AGREE TO GO TO THE COURT.

Q I SEE.

A WE ARE PREPARED TO GO IMMEDIATELY.

Q YOU COULDN'T TAKE IT ALONE?

A NO.

Q DO WE HAVE AN AID PROGRAM WITH THE BAHAMAS?

A I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE STATUS OF OUR AID PROGRAM IS. I WILL CHECK INTO THAT.

Q WHAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE FISHERMEN TO GET THEIR LOBSTER POTS BACK? THEY JUST GO AND TAKE
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THEM, OR WHAT?

A I DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS. ALL I CAN SAY IS WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION ASKED THE BAHAMIAN AUTHORITIES YESTERDAY MORNING AND THEY AGREED THAT THE AMERICAN FISHERMEN COULD RETURN AND RECOVER THEIR EMPTY LOBSTER POTS.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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